

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 7, 9 and 10, cancels claims 1-4 and 8 and leaves claims 5 and 6 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 5-7, 9 and 10.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 5, 6 and 9 are allowed.

It should be noted that the amendments made to claims 7 and 10 cause claim 7 to depend from claim 5 and claim 10 to depend from claim 9. Since claims 5 and 9 are allowed, claims 7 and 10 are now allowable since they depend from allowed base claims.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koike (U.S. Patent No. 5,309,419) considered with Kubota (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,803). As indicated above, claims 1-4 and 8 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 1-4 and 8 is rendered moot. Also, as indicated above, claim 7 was amended to depend from claim 5 and claim 10 was amended to depend from claim 9. Since claims 5 and 9 are allowed, claims 7 and 10 are now allowable thereby rendering moot this rejection. Accordingly, based on the above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 5-7, 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 5-7, 9 and 10 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (1021.40495X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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